disciplines viz., Engineering, Soil Science, Geology, Hydrology, etc.

[English]

Study on Environmental Hazardous

1589. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank Team has conducted a study about the Environmental hazardous in the major cities in India; and

(b) if so, the recommendations of the study team; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. The World Bank team has conducted a study entitled "The Cost of Inaction: Valuing the Economy-wise Cost of Environmental Degradation in India".

(b) The study has not made specific recommendations.

(c) Does not arise.

Excessive use of Urea

1590. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the quality of land has declined due to excessive use of the urea by farmers on account of non-availability of phosphatic and potassium fertilizers; and

(b) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No such reports have been received by any SAU/ICAR Institute. The average national consumption of Urea Fertilizer is 50 kg per hectare only while in Punjab, Haryana and U.P. it is 150 kg, 100 kg and 77 kg, respectively. The results of the permanent fertilizer trial (1971-87) indicate that there was no perceptible change in soil PH in neutral and alkaline soils of Punjab, Haryana and U.P.

(b) The following remedial measures are taken/ proposed to be taken:-

1. for sustained crop productivity integrated nutrient management with balanced plan nutrition is being advocated. Govt. is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Scheme-
   (i) Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilizers;
   (ii) National Project on Development of Fertiliser Use in Low consumption and Rainfed Area; and a Central Sector Scheme 'National Project and Technology Mission on Development and Use of Bio-Fertilisers.
2. Other approaches include the application of phospho-compost (compost charged with indigenous rock phosphate) recycling of crop residues, use of phosphate solubilizing biofertilizers.
3. In order to encourage the balanced use of fertilizers, concession on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has been considerably enhanced.

Visit of World Bank President

1591. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of the World Bank during his recent visit had a discussion with him;

(b) if so, the main areas of discussion;

(c) whether any new area regarding of financing for agriculture was discussed or finalised during the discussion; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The World Bank President had called on the Agriculture Minister on 18.10.1996.

(b) The main areas of discussion were-

(i) about 80% of our farmers are small and marginal farmers and that agricultural productivity in regard to the small and marginal holdings have to be raised and this can only be possible by taking science and technology to the field;

(ii) giving credit to the small and marginal farmers will go a long way to help increasing agricultural productivity;

(iii) irrigation - especially providing farmers with minor irrigation sources such as wells, Ponds, tubewells etc.,

(iv) building up of marketing infrastructure sector;

(v) for agricultural development there should be rural development, development of rural roads, opening of markets and empowerment of women;

(vi) incidental reference to input subsidies to agriculture and Government's commitment to it;

(vii) increased support price for the survival of the farmers and poor people of India;

(c) and (d). The areas of financing which were discussed were for providing credit facilities to farmers for enhancing the productive potential of land and short-term credit requirements for the cropping system; soil testing of lands to promote balanced application of nutrients and for maintaining soil health; improve extension services; providing of irrigation facilities to farmers; development of infrastructural facilities and development of marketing of agricultural commodities particularly for perishables; development of social sector etc.

In this connection, letter dated 19th October, 1996 written by the Agriculture Minister to the World Bank President Mr. James D. Wolfensohn is enclosed at Annexure 'A'.

Annexure - A

Chaturanan Mishra
Minister of Agriculture
India
New Delhi-110001

Dated : October 19, 1996

Dear President Wolfensohn,

During dinner yesterday, you and some of the members of your delegation had conveyed to me your appreciation of my thinking on the measures to be taken to improve the economic lot of small and marginal farmers who constitute almost 80% of our farming community. Encouraged by this I am placing certain proposals especially meant for small and marginal farmers of the dominantly rainfed areas like Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Eastern Madhya Pradesh, and Rayalseema area of Andhra Pradesh whose total population will be 26.1 millions. I would request the World bank to consider projects for these areas, primarily meant for the small and marginal farmers covering the following aspects :

(i) Ensuring access to credit for enhancing the productive potential of land and short-term credit requirements for the cropping system;

(ii) Soil testing of lands of these farmers to promote balanced application of nutrients and for maintaining soil health;

(iii) Transfer of improved rainfed cropping technology through demonstration and training to be organised through the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Agricultural Science Centres);

(iv) Promoting supplementary sources of household income especially for women through several agriculturally allied activities;

(v) Providing such farmers with minor irrigation sources such as wells, ponds, tubewells, etc.;

(vi) Development of rural communication infrastructure to facilitate marketing of agricultural commodities, particularly the perishabales;

(vii) Initial capital for introducing health insurance for agricultural labour. This should become contributory after introduction of assurance employment scheme.

For effective implementation of these measures funds could be provided directly to the village local bodies i.e. the Panchayats who could execute the works under the supervision of District Magistrate. The private sector and many non-governmental organisations reputed for their work performance will he engaged as this is likely to be more effective.

This will be a combined effort to reduce poverty not through doles but raising productivity and production from the lands of this scheme of the farming community. I would also like to inform you that even within our limited resources we have adopted 15 most backward poverty stricken, tribal and drought prone districts of different parts of the country through coordinated and concerted efforts to fight poverty.

We will divise measures for the best utilisation of funds. This will raise family income of the poorer sections of the population and this could have salutary effect in attempting to reduce subsidy on food which will go some way in reducing fiscal and budgetary deficit.

I am asking my Ministry to prepare concrete schemes on these aspects and would request you to send your team to finalise these projects.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Chaturanan Mishra)

Mr. James D. Wolfensohn,
President, World Bank,
Camp Office : New Delhi.

Deployment of Central Police Force in Bangalore

1592. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies of Central Police Forces deployed in Bangalore during the Miss World pageant;

(b) the cost of expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard;

(c) the authority by whom the cost is to be borne;

(d) whether proper assessment was made regarding the security risks before making the deployment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?